

Message Text

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CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SE, SG

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
PRESIDENT SENGHOR:

2. "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: KNOWING OF THE INTEREST YOU HAVE
SHOWN IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE
PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU
MY IMPRESSION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THOSE EFFORTS.

3. "IN SPITE OF A SLOW BEGINNING, THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA
SHOULD SOON BE GETTING DOWN TO THE SERIOUS TASK OF WORKING
OUT THE DETAILS OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. IT APPEARED
FOR A WHILE THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BECOME SIDETRACKED
OVER THE ISSUE OF AN INDEPENDENCE DATE AND THE LENGTH OF
THE TRANSITION PERIOD, EVEN THOUGH THE MOST IMPORTANT CON-
SIDERATION IS TO GET THE TRANSITION STARTED. THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS THE STEP THAT WILL

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CONSTITUTE AN IRREVERSIBLE BREAK WITH THE PAST. ONCE THE

POWERS PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY THE SMITH REGIME HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO IT, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN ASSURE THE EARLY ACHIEVEMENT OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT NEED FOR VIOLENCE.

4. "WHILE MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN GENEVA ARE STILL INCLINED TO STATE THEIR MAXIMUM POSITIONS IN PUBLIC, THERE ARE INDICATIONS FROM THE MANY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE THAT THE DELEGATES DO WANT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCEED AND ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER COMPROMISE.

5. "THE BRITISH ARE AWARE OF THE GROWING FEELING THAT THEY MUST PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THUS WHILE IT IS CLEAR FROM THEIR OWN STATEMENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECT ADMINISTRATION NOR SEND ANY TROOPS THERE, THEY MAY BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF REPRESENTATION IN SALISBURY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THE NATURE OF THEIR PRESENCE WOULD APPARENTLY DEPEND UPON THE DETAILS OF THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INFLUENCED BY THE DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA.

6. "WE BELIEVE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT THIS STAGE IS FOR THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO KEEP AT THE BASIC TASK OF SEARCHING FOR AGREEMENT ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST THEIR EFFORTS AND TO SUPPORT ANY ARRANGEMENTS THE PARTIES FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE.

7. "I WISH I COULD REPORT AS MUCH ACTIVITY ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. LAST MONTH, I DISCUSSED WITH MR. NUJOMA IN NEW YORK THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE, AND HE PROMISED TO GIVE ME HIS CONSIDERED VIEWS REGARDING PROPOSED NEXT STEPS AFTER HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS IN AFRICA. WE ARE STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM HIM, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT THE TIMING AND MODALITIES FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE CAN BE NEGOTIATED VERY QUICKLY IF THE PARTIES CAN GET OVER CERTAIN PROCE-

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DURAL INHIBITIONS. WE CAN DO LITTLE MORE AT PRESENT, BUT WE STAND READY TO ASSIST IN MOVING THE MATTER ON TO THE NEXT STAGE AS SOON AS THIS IS POSSIBLE.

8. "I REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF BOTH THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEMS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IF ALL THE PARTIES WILL APPROACH THE TASK IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENCOURAGE THAT SPIRIT AND

HOPE THAT OTHERS WILL DO SO AS WELL.

9. "YOUR OWN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE REASON AND UNIVERSAL
HUMAN OBJECTIVITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COULD WELL BE
EMULATED BY THOSE WHO FIND NO SOLUTIONS BECAUSE THEY WANT
ONLY ABSOLUTE ONES. I WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE TO HAVE
ANY OBSERVATIONS OR THOUGHTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS THAT IS UNDERWAY. WITH WARMEST
REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER." KISSINGER

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